

B.S.B.I. NEWS

Edited by KENNETH A. BECKETT

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WARBURG MEMORIAL FUND

THE Botanical Society of the British Isles and the British Bryological Society have jointly established a Fund the purpose of which is to grant, once in each two years, a travelling scholarship to a botanist under the age of 21 years. The first award, of £50, was made in 1972. Preference will be given to candidates who intend to undertake a project involving field work in the British Isles or elsewhere, between leaving school and going up to university.

Persons wishing to be considered for this award should write to the address given below with the following information:—

1. Full name and address of applicant;
2. Date of birth;
3. Education and examination record to date;
4. Proposed further education;
5. Short details of project involving travel, including an estimate of expenses and information relating to candidate's experience and other qualifications for carrying out the proposed work;
6. Name and status of two referees to whom Trustees can refer if necessary.

Successful applicants will be requested to submit a report on the work they have carried out as a result of the scholarship.

Application must be lodged not later than 31st May, 1974, and should be addressed to:

The Secretaries,
Warburg Memorial Fund,
c/o Botanical Society of the British Isles,
Department of Botany,
British Museum (Natural History),
Cromwell Road,
LONDON, SW7 5BD.

PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION

Our retiring President's eulogistic welcome to his successor in the May News-letter leaves me with such a reputation to live up to that I hardly know what I should write. But the first thing I want to say is easy enough — to express my thanks to David McClintock for his able and enthusiastic guidance to the Society over the past two years. I take over to find that his Presidency has left the B.S.B.I. in a very healthy state, full of ideas and vigour, and expanding again in membership. (Welcome, incidentally, to our 2,000th member, to whom Council last week unanimously decided to offer a free membership for her first year!) Not only are we growing, but we are also breaking new ground; the Oak Symposium, held at the University of Sussex in September, was an outstanding success, and a really effective advertisement for the Society, bringing together field botanists, foresters, conservationists, entomologists and many others for a most stimulating exchange of ideas. This brings me, naturally, to the area of activity in which I feel the B.S.B.I.'s contribution can be specially important, namely, in European co-operation. We shall be holding in Cambridge next June a "European meeting", at which I hope to be host to fifteen to twenty botanists from almost as many different European countries. These visiting botanists will be telling us of their studies on floristic problems of common interest, and we hope that for all of us this will be a valuable and enjoyable conference. I hope that we can expand our working together with Continental botanists in joint excursions, surveys, symposia and in other ways. The time is ripe for such developments, and we stand to gain as much as do our foreign colleagues from the exchange.

A word now about internal matters. I am delighted to know that Cecil Prime is now happily recovered from his serious illness of the summer, an illness which unfortunately prevented him from preparing this News-letter. Cecil is advised not to take on extra work, and has understandably had to withdraw from the Editorship. We have been very fortunate in persuading Kenneth Beckett, a horticultural journalist, to take over the production: in this work we know he will be ably assisted by his wife, Gillian, our Meetings Secretary. To both we offer our very best wishes for all future happiness!

I recently re-read my talk to the Society's 1970 Conference on *The Flora of a Changing Britain*, and was heartened to find how well we seemed to be doing on many of my ten listed points of things I hoped the B.S.B.I. would do. Next week I am due to address the Parliamentary All-Party Conservation Committee about the *Wild Plant Protection Bill* due to be introduced into the House of Lords this session. Much devoted work has gone into the preparation of this Bill (and its unsuccessful predecessor prepared by the Wild Plant Protection Working Party), and we ought to acknowledge our thanks to those B.S.B.I. members who have over the years selflessly devoted themselves to this cause. This is just one aspect of the important rôle that our Society is playing in the whole complex and urgent field of nature conservation, and I am very proud to be associated in this work. Perhaps I could finish with a plea to all B.S.B.I. members: please do your utmost, when the time comes (and you will be notified) to publicise the *Wild Plant Protection Bill*, its aims and provisions, so that it has the maximum impact, and is finally successful in Parliament.

S. M. WALTERS

SECRETARY'S REPORT

First a word about the production of the News-letter. During the change in Editor Volume 2, No. 3 was not issued and it has been agreed by those concerned with the publishing and distribution, that two larger issues annually is at the moment more practicable than three smaller ones.

This brings me to a note on the change in the names on our Exhibition Meeting application form in the last two years. Mrs. Lorna Ferguson who has organised this major meeting of the B.S.B.I. year very successfully for 3 years, still supervised all the meetings arrangements for us in 1972, although she had by then left the British Museum when young Ian Henry Ferguson joined the family. In 1973, arrangements were taken over by Michael Mullin, who during the year joined the staff at the British Museum as a Scientific Officer in the Fern Section of the Botany Department. We should like to thank all those whose work behind the scenes contributes to the success of this meeting, and in particular to Mr. R. Ross whose permission gives us the use of the Botany Department. Also all those who work in the Department to whom "B.S.B.I. Exhibition Day" means a great clearance of all the bench surfaces! Dr. Norman Robson too has been our liaison with the Museum officials and the caterers and has through the years negotiated on our behalf through various changes in meeting venues due to structural alterations of the building etc. Finally, the other changed name on the 1973 notice was Miss Gillian Tuck, now Mrs. Kenneth Beckett, and we send congratulations to them (and also to Eric Greenwood, Editor of *Watsonia* and his new wife Barbara who were married in July).

I should like to right a small but numerically important typographical error in the last issue. There was a reference (page 25) to 20,000 copies of our *Code of Conduct* having been distributed. This should in fact have read 120,000 and the extra 100,000, as you can imagine, represents a great deal of handling and despatch by those members who have undertaken the distribution for us. This would be a good opportunity to express our gratitude to Mrs. Sheila Phillips who distributed the bulk of the *Codes* for the original stock and to Dr. Keith Ferguson who has been, week by week for the past year, sending off packets of these as they have been requested for conservation projects all over the country.

We must also acknowledge again the generosity of the World Wildlife Fund which has enabled us to distribute this useful leaflet in quantity, and in particular their recent grant for a reprint when the stock was exhausted.

You may have seen in the press that mapping at 1:25,000 scale was under review by the Ordnance Survey. A questionnaire was completed on behalf of the Society pointing out that these 2½ in. maps are essential for the tetrad recording which is the base of most of the surveys carried out by our members, so we are pleased that the Secretary of State for the Environment has decided that full national coverage at the 1:25,000 scale should continue to be published. There is no guarantee that the format will remain the same, but the scale, which is of the greatest importance to us, has been reprieved.

I was pleased to hear from one of the young correspondents who had earlier written asking for information for a school wildlife project, that the school — Our Lady of the Assumption, Liverpool — had come joint second in the competition for which their work was being prepared, and won £100 presented by Lyons food. It was rather a coincidence that another school with B.S.B.I. help — Wells Primary School, Norfolk with Gillian Tuck as their teacher, also won a prize in that same Competition.

Inside the front cover of this issue is a notice of the Warburg Memorial Award due in 1974. The fund is administered jointly by the British Bryological Society and the B.S.B.I., and in 1972, Miss R. Kidman-Cox of the Department of Botany, University of Bristol was awarded a grant towards her expenses for a survey in North Borneo, mainly for bryophytes. Miss Kidman-Cox sent an account of her travels and a botanical report to the Trustees, who expressed concern at the rapid ecological change of most of the area visited, and a note was sent to the appropriate conservation bodies. It is hoped that members will encourage applications for this year's award.

The Scottish Exhibition Meeting, held this year at the Scottish National Zoological Park, Edinburgh was again a successful meeting with exhibits filling all the space available, and an illustrated lecture on Faroer by Alan C. Crundwell of the University of Glasgow. A dozen or so of B.S.B.I. members from south of the border travelled north for the meeting and enjoyed a hospitable welcome from the Scottish societies. After supper slides of C.S.S.F. Field meetings were shown. Dr. Margaret Bradshaw, being the only member of the Expedition to Lapland who had managed to receive her slides back since the August meeting, showed a very interesting series of plants seen near Abisko in Sweden, noting comparisons with the flora of Teesdale. These were followed by slides taken on field meetings in Easternness and Westernness during the year. The similarity of some of the scenery of Faroer, Lapland and Scotland was striking and many scenes were very beautiful.

MARY BRIGGS

MEETINGS COMMITTEE REPORT

From the point of view of the meetings organised by the committee, 1973 has been a very satisfactory year. The first event was the A.G.M. held at Swansea and followed by a series of very good papers on plants of special local interest, with a field meeting to the Gower on the Sunday. Both were ably organised by Dr. Q. O. N. Kay and those who made the long journey to South Wales were amply rewarded by the excellence of the week-end.

The remaining field meetings of the year attracted an average attendance of 20, with 21 attending the overseas meeting to Yugoslavia in April. The Oak Symposium was also highly successful, members being outnumbered by non-members, which says much for the prestige and good advertising offices of the Society.

Non-members included representatives of the Nature Conservancy, Forestry Commission, Colleges of Agriculture and Forestry, various University departments, Foresters and Tree Surgeons. A report of the Symposium including the Field Excursions will be published in *Watsonia*.

During 1974 there will be a full programme of field meetings, but it is very much regretted that owing to unforeseen circumstances the meeting to Spain will not after all take place as planned. Other changes since the last issue of the News-letter include the date of A.G.M. which has been put back a week to May 4th, and the Recorders' Conference which has been postponed to September 19-21, 1975, at Attingham Park in Shropshire.

After my comments about the lack of response to requests for ideas about field meetings, I did receive three letters, all of which however gave different views about timing and the best localities for meetings. The Committee has tried to provide as balanced a diet as possible for 1974!

GILLIAN BECKETT

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

During the past year the committee has continued to represent the interests of the B.S.B.I. in a wide range of conservation fields, but we are very pleased to announce two major developments.

The first is the Wild Plant Protection Bill. This is to be introduced in the House of Lords under the sponsorship of Lord Beaumont during November, and there is every possibility that it will reach the House of Commons by the new year. When it does, it will be a great help to the Bill if as many members as possible write to their M.P.'s in support of it. A more detailed appeal is to be circulated at the appropriate time.

The second is the conservation posters mentioned in the last News-letter. These are now in print and will be published shortly. One is approximately of foolscap size and bears a simple conservation slogan against a cowslip photograph, and the other is much larger and carries a detailed appeal accompanying paintings of twenty of Britain's most threatened species.

One of each will be sent to every member free of charge. Please display them if you can, and possibly interest your local authorities in distributing them further afield.

PETER BRANDHAM

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

It is encouraging to note not only that the Society has a number of new publications in the pipe-line, but that some of our previous publications are still selling very well. Our first Handbook, *British Sedges*, first published in 1968, was reprinted in 1972 and continues to find a constant demand, over 600 copies having been sold in the last year. Our Conference Report *The Flora of a Changing Britain*, published in 1970, is sold out and a reprint is being considered. These and many of our other publications are available from our agent, whose new address should be noted by members: E. W. Classey Ltd., Park Road, Faringdon, Berkshire, SN7 7DR.

The report of the 1972 B.S.B.I.-R.H.S. Conference, entitled *Plants Wild and Cultivated*, was published in May 1973, and if you do not have your copy write to Classey's for it straight away.

At the time of writing these notes it is expected that the list of recommended English plant names will be published for the Society by Butterworth's late in 1973 under the title *English Names of Plants*. The report of the recent very successful Oak Symposium should be published shortly with the title *The Oak: its History and Natural History* (Conference Report No. 14), and our second Handbook, *British Willows and Poplars*, may be available later in 1974. The mammoth work edited by Dr. Clive Stace summarising known information about British hybrids is now completed and in press. Several other projects are under discussion and the Society expects to maintain its regular output of publications of interest to members.

R. K. BRUMMITT

ATTINGHAM PARK, BOTANICAL COURSE

For several years botanical courses, both long and short, have been a permanent feature in the Summer Schools held at the Shropshire Adult College at Attingham Park. Now, by kind permission of the warden Geoffrey Toms, an invitation has been extended to all B.S.B.I. members to join in. In August 1972 this invitation only resulted in two out of the 20 places being filled by our members and no report seemed justified: however this year twelve took part and a report is clearly called for.

The party assembled at lunch time on Thursday, 9th August but unfortunately the leader, by a misunderstanding failed to appear until 6.0 p.m. However after a few frantic phone calls the participants were instructed to forage widely in the extensive grounds of the 600 acre park so that there was plenty of material for discussion during the evening session.

The main aim of these courses is to help the amateur to become thoroughly familiar with the most widespread and common species: The stress is on how to identify common plants rather than where to find the rare. Attingham Park in particular and the Shropshire landscape in general provide a wonderful range of habitats for this purpose.

Normally a lecture is given each evening on a particular family or genus or another topic of interest to beginners. The field work of the following day is related to that lecture. This year we had lectures on *Ranunculaceae*, *Caryophyllaceae* and *Gramineae*, whilst a small group of advanced beginners looked at specimens of the genus *Rosa* which were in a mature state for study.

The first day in the field was spent on Earls Hill Nature Reserve, near Pontesbury, which is managed by the Shropshire Conservation Trust. We followed the well marked Nature trail across scree slopes with abundant *Sedum forsteranum* and then descended through bracken and roses (3 species observed) to the Habberley Brook which runs north between Earls Hill to the west and Oaks Wood to the east. It was at this point where we joined the stream that we were pleased to see on the opposite bank 3 trees of the large-leaved lime, *Tilia platyphyllos*, in what must surely be a native locality. Nearby was a patch of the upland enchanters-nightshade, *Circaea intermedia*.

The ascent to the top of Earls Hill of over 500 ft was then made and many of the older members of the party were excited by their achievement in reaching the top up some very stiff slopes. However, the view from the Iron Age Fort was rewarding spanning as it does all the country between the Wrekin and the Berwyn Mountains, and had the drizzle held off a little longer we could have seen to the north, the sites of the excursion on the following day to Whixall and Wem Mosses.

These Mosses are raised bogs in the heart of the North Shropshire Plain. Whixall is an enormous area which once covered nearly 1,200 acres, but it has been dug over for peat for centuries. However, many species of acid conditions remain and scrub has developed on the old diggings and there is a rich ditch flora. Alder buckthorn, *Frangula alnus* was abundant, and one or two fine bushes of *Salix pentandra* were seen. After lunch, taken beside a very active stretch of the Shropshire Union Canal, we examined an abandoned branch nearby. Amongst the many attractive aquatic species the frogbit, *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*, was prominent and in full flower.

The last stop of the day was at Wem Moss, which has been little cut over in recent years and retains a characteristic, though very restricted, flora. During an hour's stay we saw only 27 species but these included all three species of *Drosera*, (sundew) *Andromeda polifolia*, *Myrica gale* (bog myrtle) and *Vaccinium oxycoccus*.

Sunday belonged to Miss Pugh. She lives at Pant on the Welsh border close beside the wonderful limestone of Llanymynech hill, and knows every blade of grass in the neighbourhood. After pausing to admire a magnificent stand of dwarf elder, *Sambucus ebulus*, beside the A483 south of Llanymynech we ascended the hill along lightly wooded paths, bright with patches of *Hypericum*, *Clinopodium* and *Origanum*. Higher up, in deeper shade we were led to broadleaved helleborine, *Epipactis helleborine* and herb paris, *Paris quadrifolia*. Emerging at the top we found ourselves in one of the most beautiful lanes full of wild flowers I have ever seen — common flowers all of them, but a display which would have made any gardener purr. But this was not all and soon, through a gap in the fence amongst a blaze of western gorse, *Ulex galli*, Miss Pugh was demonstrating a fine patch of dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria*.

So much to enjoy that lunch was almost forgotten and it was well after two before we descended and made our way to Miss Pugh's garden for a sunlit picnic on her lawn. But her garden has such a fine collection of species that the botanical excursion continued as we nosed about sandwich in hand.

Thus, in the very happiest surroundings, the meeting was drawn to a close. We said our good-byes, though many were already planning to return again in the near future to resume acquaintance with the botanical riches of the Shropshire countryside.

F. H. PERRING

BOOK NOTES

Since the last issue of B.S.B.I. News went to press, a most important book has appeared. Entitled *Plants, Wild and Cultivated — a Conference on Horticulture and Field Botany*, it contains the proceedings of the meeting that the Society held jointly with the Royal Horticultural Society in September 1972. As well as the text of all the papers read at that meeting, the book, which has been edited by Peter Green, contains three appendices. These are accounts respectively of the exhibits staged at the Conference, the excursion to Box Hill and Wisley that followed the indoor proceedings, and the species of *Acaena* with spherical heads cultivated and naturalised in the British Isles (the last by Dr. P. F. Yeo).

An examination of the book will reinforce the feeling of many who attended the Conference that we had reached a botanical "watershed". Speaker after speaker pointed out where the interests of cultivators and naturalists overlapped, for example, where the "wild" weeds upset the cultivators' ordered gardens, fields and plantations or where the "cultivated" escapes have become part of the flora and have to be recorded and described like native species.

It is not necessary to list all the fascinating topics included in *Plants, Wild and Cultivated*. Suffice it to say that this book should be on the shelves of all B.S.B.I. members and that, having read it, they are never again likely to say of botany and horticulture (to quote part of the title of the opening paper, by Dr. J. S. L. Gilmour) "and never the twain shall meet".

The following books will be reviewed in **Watsonia**, Vol. 9 (5):—

Flore de France, Fasc. 1, by I. M. Guinochet and R. de Vilmorin.

Ecology of Salt Marshes and Sand Dunes, by D. S. Ranwell.

Flora Europaea, Vol. 3, edited by T. G. Tutin *et al.*

A Beginner's Guide to Fern Study, by Margaret Merryweather.

Flowers of South-west Europe, a field guide, by Oleg Polunin and B. E. Smythies.

How Grasses Grow, by R. H. M. Langer.

Prima loca plantarum Sueciae, by Nils Hylander.

Heukels van Ooststroom — Flora van Nederland, Ed. 16, by S. J. van Ooststroom.

Atlas of the Japanese Flora, by Yoshiwo Horikawa.

Chromosomal Evolution in Higher Plants, by G. L. Stebbins.

Forests of Nepal, by J. D. A. Stainton.

Oxford Biology Readers, Nos. 25, 38-40, 43, 46, 55, 60, by various authors.

The Description and Classification of Vegetation, by D. W. Shimwell.

Oenothera: Cytogenetics and Evolution, by R. E. Cleland.

Botanical Latin, Ed. 2, by W. T. Stearn.

In addition, the following books have been received. Those which will not be reviewed in greater detail in **Watsonia** are marked with an asterisk:—

Evolution and Plants of the Past, by Harlan P. Banks.

Vegetace C.S.S.R., Vols. A1, A4, B1, B2, by various authors.

Ecological Management and Conservation, by M. B. Ussher.

How Trees Grow, by Philip R. Morey.

Bibliographia Botanica Cechoslovaca 1967-1968* by Z. Neuhaüslová-Novotná, M. Pivonkova and O Winkler. Pp. 424 and map. Botanickýústav C.S.A.V., Pruhonice near Prague. 1972. Price not stated. (See review in **Watsonia 9(2): 161-162 (1972)).

Past and Present Vegetation of the Isle of Skye, by H. J. B. Birks.

**Herb. Manch. A Guide to the Contents of the Herbarium of Manchester Museum*, Manchester Museum Publs., no. N.S. 1,73, by J. W. Franks. Pp. ii + 29. Manchester Museum, The University, Manchester, M13 9PL. 1973. Price 95p + 5p postage.

**Type Specimens in Manchester Museum Herbarium — Musci*, Manchester Museum Publs. no. N.S.2,73, by G. C. S. Clarke, Pp.ii + 20. Available as above at same price.

Seeds to Civilisation, by Charles B. Heiser, Jr.

Rhododendrons and Azaleas, by I. F. La Croix.

Timber, its structure and properties, ed. 5, by H. E. Desch.

Biological Nomenclature, by Charles Jeffrey.

Numerical Taxonomy, by P. H. A. Sneath and R. R. Sokal.

N. K. B. ROBSON

PETFOOD PROJECT

Money has recently become available through the World Wildlife Fund from Pedigree Petfoods Ltd., for research and survey work on endangered species in this country.

The B.S.B.I. Conservation Committee supported a number of successful applications and, this summer work has begun on a study of the fen violet, *Viola stagnina* under Dr. Woodell at Oxford, and on the marsh pea, *Lathyrus palustris* under Dr. Walters at Cambridge. Dr. Roland Randall has undertaken a survey of some shingle bank species including *Crambe maritima* and *Lathyrus japonicus*. A team of students under Dr. A. J. Richards is making a detailed survey of a little known part of the Pennines, whilst three students from Cambridge University have spent three weeks in Caithness and Sutherland assessing the population of rare and local species threatened by oil developments in the North Sea.

More grants are available for specific projects on endangered species and anyone about to embark on such a survey, or interested in doing so should write to the Secretary of the Conservation Committee.

F. H. PERRING

CERTIFICATE IN FIELD BIOLOGY

The University of London awards a Certificate in Field Biology. The work for this Certificate involves a directed course of private reading at home, attendance at two Practical Courses each of two weeks held in the Summer of consecutive years, and an approved plan of field work suited to the student's locality to be written up in the form of a Special Study, and examinations.

The Certificate is designed for (i) teachers who require a certificate testifying that they have a practical working knowledge of living organisms in their natural habitats, (ii) persons other than teachers who require a similar certificate as a background to their professional interests (for example, persons concerned with forestry, landscape architecture, conservation), (iii) persons who wish to pursue a scientific course of study in field biology.

For syllabus and registration form, write to the Assistant Director, Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of London, 7 Ridgmount Street, London, WC1E 7AD.

NEW RECORDS

B.S.B.I. members often visit National Nature Reserves and make interesting discoveries. Too often they fail to report these finds to the regional staff of the Nature Conservancy who are responsible for managing the area, and need the information if they are to prepare and carry out management plans which ensure the conservation of all the species on the reserve.

If when you are on an N.N.R. in future you find any species which appears to be new to the reserve or in a new area, please note the locality carefully and inform the Warden of the Reserve or the appropriate Regional Office. If it is easier send me the record and I will pass it on. All records will be treated with confidence.

F. H. PERRING
*Monks Wood Experimental Station,
 Huntingdon.*

SOME MORE MNEMONICS

From M. Scannell:—

Difficulties are found in associating the scientific name with each of the reed grasses, *Phalaris* and *Phragmites*. It has proved useful to the writer to connect fragmented ligule (=a ring of hairs) with *Phragmites*.

From Doreen Piggott:—

A Juncus jingle.

Of common Junci we have seen

Inflexus is a greyish green

Effusus sways, an arc it makes

Conglomeratus simply breaks.

Ceratophyllums.

Demersum is double spined and forked but *twice*,

Spineless *submersum* may prove to be forked *thrice*.

From Gillian Beckett.

Galium palustre and *G. uliginosum*.

Many people have problems with these two species. My memory jogger is so stupid that I can't help remembering it! Here it is in case anyone else finds it of use.

One of the species has an obtuse, "U" shaped leaf tip, one is acute. It ought to be "U" for *uliginosum*, but it isn't, it is the other way round!

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The L.N.H.S. will be holding the following two meetings this spring, and B.S.B.I. members have been invited to attend them. Both are being given by members of our Society and are to be held in the Department of Botany, Imperial College of Science and Technology, Prince Consort Road, London, S.W.7. at 18.30 hours.

"Pollen and its application to plant classification".

Dr. I. K. Ferguson. Wednesday, March 6th.

"Spring in Jugoslavia"

Mrs. A. G. Side. Wednesday, April 24th.

LIBRARY FACILITIES

Members are reminded that, through the kindness of the Council of the Linnean Society of London, they have the privilege of consulting the Library of the Linnean Society at Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1. (Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays to Fridays, with an extension till 8.0 p.m. on Thursdays).

ORCHIS MILITARIS

The military orchid (*Orchis militaris* L.) site in Suffolk is now being managed as a nature reserve jointly by the Suffolk Trust for Nature Conservation and the Forestry Commission, which owns the site. It is to be known as the Rex Graham Nature Reserve in memory of the late Mr. R. A. Graham, an enthusiastic supporter of orchid conservation in Britain.

The arrangements for visiting the site are to be altered. One or two open days each flowering season will be announced by the Trust in its annual programme, when the Trust's conservationists will be present to explain management etc., B.S.B.I. and W.F.S. members wishing to visit the reserve should write to the Secretariat of the Trust at the Estates Department, County Hall, Ipswich, for particulars enclosing a stamped addressed envelope please. No visitors will be allowed in the reserve at other times. Photographers (and others) will not be allowed to step off the cat-walk, which has now been provided to prevent damage such as has been caused in previous years by trampling.

E. MILNE-READHEAD

ATLAS FLORAE EUROPAEAE

Since the last edition of the B.S.B.I. News, Volume 2. *Gymnospermae* has been published, and like Volume 1, *Pteridophyta*, it may be ordered from The Academic Bookstore, Keskuskatu, 1, SF-00100 Helsinki 10, Finland.

At a recent meeting of the Mapping Committee in Varna, Bulgaria, it was agreed that one volume containing maps of about 200 species should appear every year. This means that the whole project will only take 65 years to complete.

F. H. PERRING

NEW PLANT ECOLOGY WALL-CHARTS

The British Museum (Natural History) has recently published a group of five wall-charts which illustrate the common plants of some typical British Communities. The charts are reproduced in full colour from originals by Miss Barbara Nicholson, whose illustrations for the Oxford series of books on the British flora and food plants have already received wide critical approval. The communities include Heathland, Sand Dunes, Chalk Grassland, Damp Meadows, and Waste Ground and Weeds. In each case some thirty flowering plants are illustrated, together with about ten mosses, fungi and lichens. While of course the complexities of real communities cannot be fully reproduced on a wall-chart, the plants have been carefully arranged in a semi-naturalistic manner which, with occasional glimpses of the surrounding countryside, does much to create a visual impression of the natural scene. The charts are primarily intended for general educational purposes and for furthering the interests of conservation, but they are sufficiently attractive to appeal to many botanists and lovers of the countryside purely on their decorative merits. A short descriptive leaflet is included with the charts, and in this some features of the ecology of each community are discussed at the simplest level. A firm injunction to **NEVER PICK WILD FLOWERS UNLESS YOU ARE CERTAIN OF THEIR IDENTITY AND THAT THE SPECIES CONCERNED ARE COMMON AND WIDESPREAD** is incorporated in the introduction to the leaflet. It is intended that this first series will be supplemented by others, which will illustrate further typical British plant communities. The charts are priced 35p each (plus postage and packing in U.K. 15p) or £1.75 per set of five (plus postage and packing in U.K. 20p). In both cases the charges are inclusive of VAT. They can be purchased at the Museum's bookshop, or can be ordered from the Publications Officer, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, SW7 5BD.

J. F. M. CANNON

PROCEEDINGS AND WATSONIA REQUESTS

Requests have been sent in from members for the following volumes. Please answer direct to the names and addresses given.

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Proceedings | Vol. 2 Part 1. |
| | Mrs. M. Briggs, White Cottage, Slinfold, Horsham, Sussex. |
| Watsonia | Vol. 2 Parts 5 and 6. |
| | Mr. J. W. Carr, 117 Vicarage Road, South Benfleet, Essex. |
| Watsonia | Vol. 1 Part 2 |
| | Vol. 2 Part 4 |
| | Vol. 5 Part 3 |
| Proceedings | Vol. 3 Part 3 |
| | Mr. A. F. Porter, M.Sc., LL.B., 16, Hawthorn Way, Darras Hall,
Ponteland, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. |

AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY

The Australian Systematic Botany Society was formed at a meeting of botanists in Melbourne, on 7th April, 1973.

The aims of the Society are:—

- (i) to promote the study of systematics;
- (ii) to encourage and facilitate the dissemination and exchange of information among all those interested in the taxonomic botany of the Australian region;
- (iii) to stimulate and assist systematic research and teaching in the Australian region.

A council of six members was elected — T. Whiffin (President); D. J. Carr (Vice-President); D. J. McGillivray (Secretary); A. Kanis (Treasurer); D. Boyland; A. S. George. Persons interested in the Society, or in its aims, are encouraged to communicate with any of the Council Members.

Membership of the Society is open to all those interested in Systematics. Persons wishing to become a member may do so by sending a subscription to the Treasurer, Dr. A. Kanis, Herbarium Australiense, C.S.I.R.O., P.O. Box 1600, Canberra City, A.C.T. 2601. The subscription is set at A\$3, or U.S.\$5 for overseas members. A news bulletin, issued approximately three times a year, is planned for circulation to members.

The next meeting of the Society will be held in Perth at the time of the ANZAAS Congress, in August, 1973.

D. J. MCGILLIVRAY
(Sydney)

THE SOIL ASSOCIATION

The Soil Association is organising three foreign meetings in 1974, two to Austria and one to Switzerland, under the name of Ecology Travel. These are open to non-members and anyone interested is asked to write for further details to:— Mr. P. Barron, 10 Croham Mount, South Croydon, CR2 0BR.

FLOWERS OF ANDALUSIA

Lt.-Cdr. C. M. Stocken's book, *Andalusian Flowers and Countryside*, will shortly be sold out.

This book was planned purely as a memorial to this excellent plantsman and, although published privately, has sold faster than imagined.

No reprint of this book is planned, stocks are not expected to last more than a few more weeks, and it will therefore become a collector's item. In view of the great interest shown in Stocken's book by B.S.B.I. Members, a small quantity will be put aside for exclusive purchase by Members until December 31st, 1973. After this date any copies remaining will be available to all comers.

The price of each copy is £1.00 (packing and postage paid) and it is distributed by Mrs. E. M. Stocken, Mariners, Thurlstone, Nr. KINGSBRIDGE, South Devon, England.

LETTERS

1, Coltsfoot Road,
Ware,
Herts.

Dear Dr. Prime,

I have recently been sent quantities of the following Prairie grass seeds from Colorado, U.S.A. I wonder if any members would care for some to grow on?

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> | (Turkey foot) |
| <i>A. scoparius</i> | (little blue stem) |
| <i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> | (side oats grama) |
| <i>B. gracilis</i> | (blue grama) |
| <i>Buchloe dactyloides</i> | (buffalo grass) |
| <i>Panicum virgatum</i> | (switchgrass) |
| <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> | (Indian grass) |
| <i>Sporobolus airoides</i> | (alkali sacaton) |
| <i>S. cryptandrus</i> | (sand dropseed) |

GORDON HANSON

The following letter was received by Dr. David Streeter, organiser of the Oak Symposium.

Corpus Christi College,
Cambridge.

Dear David,

I very much enjoyed the Oak Symposium; not only the papers and excursions, but also the many opportunities of meeting old friends and interesting people. I have seldom been to a Conference which so effectively combined solid instruction with social pleasure, and would like to thank you and your fellow organisers for your excellent handling of the arrangements.

DR. OLIVER RACKHAM

The Linnean Society of London.
 Burlington House,
 Piccadilly,
 London, W1V 0LQ.

Dear Mrs. Briggs,

B.S.B.I. NEWS Vol. 2, No. 2, May 1973

On page 37 of the above is a suggestion concerning the question "what motif" and that a natural coloured representation of *Linnaea borealis* . . . would help to advertise the Society.

Before any further consideration might be given to this proposal I would point out that this particular plant has very close association with The Linnean Society of London and in fact is incorporated in the Society's Coat of Arms, is inlaid on our Presidential Chair and carved into our meeting room dais.

TH. O'GRADY
Executive Secretary

A number of possible motifs have been received since the original article appeared. Has anyone further suggestions? Editor.

CAREX MURICATA AGG.

We are making an intensive study of this group of sedges and would welcome communications from other observers.

The four main taxa in Britain can usually be distinguished on the following characters:

1. Ligule narrow V-shaped with an acute tip, hooded (i.e. with a scarious border standing out from the leaf surface). Ripe utricles 5 mm. or more long with a long straightly tapered beak and with the nut set well above the bulbous or irregularly inflated base. Leaf-sheaths and bracts frequently (but not invariably) tinged vinous red. *spicata*
1. Ligule ovate or rounded not or only slightly hooded at tip. Ripe utricles less than 5 mm. long with the nut set near the regularly rounded or tapered base. Sheaths and bracts never tinged vinous red.
2. Inflorescence more or less compact (no interval between spikelets more than 1 cm.). Utricles very shiny, soon becoming brown or black, from 3.5 to 4 mm. long, short-beaked, with a broadly rounded base. *muricata*
2. Inflorescence with the spikelets clearly separated, the two lowest by 1 cm. or more. Utricles more or less evenly tapered at either end.
3. Inflorescence usually shorter than 6 cm. and occupying 1/10 to 1/25 of the flowering culm. Interval between the two lowest spikelets not more than 2.5 cm. All culms flowering and then fruiting simultaneously. Ripe utricles from 4 to 4.8 mm. long, turning red or dark-brown *leersii*
 (= *polyphylla* auctt.)
3. Inflorescence from 6 to 16 mm. long and occupying more than 1/10 of the flowering culm. Interval between two lowest spikelets from 2 to 8 cm. long. Flowering culms produced in succession from June to September. Ripe utricles less than 4 cm. long, remaining greenish. *divulsa*

We need to examine living plants in the field, making successive visits throughout the season. We should be particularly grateful for information that would direct us to the following:

- (a) Plants answering the description of *C. muricata* above but definitely growing on limestone (the common form is a plant of acid sands and gravels).
- (b) Plants intermediate between *CC. leersii* and *divulsa* as described above, or apparently belonging to one of these taxa but with utricles more than 3.5 mm. or less than 5 mm. long.
- (c) Plants of *leersii* or *divulsa* growing either north of Yorkshire or in Wales.

R. W. DAVID (41 Barton Road, Cambridge, CB3 9LG.)

J. G. KELCEY, (3 Manshead Court, 17 Galley Hill, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes, Bucks.)

JUNCUS PLANIFOLIUS IN IRELAND

Juncus planifolius R. Br. was collected on the western shore of Lough Truskan, West Galway (16), L.8130, when botanising in the area with Miss Vera Gordon and Miss Ann Swinney, 31/7/1971. Several plants, in appearance like *Luzula campestris*, were growing on the wet track with the associated flora, *Anagallis tenella*, *Hypnum cupressiforme*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus* and *Sphagnum* sp.

Buchanan (1906) places the rush in the section, *Graminifolii* of *Juncus*, i.e. plants tufted, inflorescence terminal, flowering stems with many basal non-septate leaves, leaf-sheaths without auricles. The only species in Britain in this group is *Juncus capitatus*, which occurs in Cornwall and Anglesey.

Moore and Edgar, (*Flora of New Zealand*, 1970) lists *Juncus planifolius* from moist places extending from sea level to 900 m. in Australia, New Zealand and also South America and Chile. The South American station, at Valdivia, province of Osorno at 40° South Latitude is the nearest station to Ireland.

Juncus planifolius is not considered native in West Galway. Its occurrence there must be due to human activity. It may be that the grass-leaved rush will be reported in other areas in the future as in the case of *Juncus tenuis*.

Juncus planifolius has not been previously reported in the Northern Hemisphere. Specimens of the gathering have been placed in DBN, BEL, and BM.

M. SCANNELL.
Herbarium, National Botanic Gardens,
Glasnevin, Dublin, IRELAND

THE C.S.S.F. INVERNESS-SHIRE SURVEY

The 1974 recording season will bring the last opportunity to give practical help to the survey in the field, for the present project will then enter its fifth and final year. In reminding members of this, the organisers extend a cordial invitation to them to take part in any of the field meetings planned for the summer; details of which are printed in the committee's field programme.

The Committee will be grateful for information about Inverness-shire plants which may come to the notice of members, either from printed or from unpublished sources, or from herbarium material to which they have access. At this stage the main interest of the organisers is in flowering plant and fern records, but they will also be grateful for records of non-flowering plants; and it is hoped to compile a file of these. Records from areas east of the Great Glen should be sent to:— Miss E. R. T. Conacher, An Fharaid, Larmarnock Road, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, PA11 3AP, who is recorder for V.C.96, while those from west of the Great Glen should go to the recorder for V.C.97, Mr. A. A. P. Slack, 24 Garscadden Road, Glasgow, G15 6UN. The Chairman of the Committee (Mr. R. Mackechnie, 9 Skirving Street, Glasgow, G41 3AB) will welcome offers of assistance or enquiries from anyone interested in the survey.

R. MACKECHNIE

ANNUAL EXHIBITION MEETING IN EDINBURGH

The Botanical Society of Edinburgh was joint host with the Committee for the Study of the Scottish Flora for the annual exhibition meeting on Saturday 3rd November. This year the botanists took up their station for the day at the Royal Scottish Zoological Park. The unfamiliar surroundings were soon forgotten as, in the morning the two dozen or so exhibitors laid out herbarium sheets, paintings, photographs, maps, living plants and all the paraphernalia that goes to show how much botanical activity there is in Scotland at the present time. Nor have the Scottish botanists all been staying at home as there was evidence of travel overseas: nor were the exhibitors all Scottish. It was with great pleasure that we saw Dr. F. H. Perring laying out a spray of mistletoe, Mr. E. C. Wallace with specimens brought from Faroer, Iceland and Canada, Mr. E. P. Libbey and Mr. A. Copping from Norfolk with grasses, sedges and rushes collected in Lapland, and Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Peach who, from London had come to Edinburgh via Westerns bringing with them an exhibit of living plants, some flowering, from the hills in those parts.

Miss U. K. Duncan, having allocated each a table, and organised the exhibition, and Mr. B. S. Brookes prepared the titles, the visiting botanists began to arrive at 2.0 o'clock. In twos and threes came those, who each year we look forward to seeing at these meetings. People whose names are synonymous with Scottish field botany, Mr. R. Mackechnie, Mr. B. W. Ribbons, Miss U. K. Duncan, Mrs. A. H. Sommerville, Miss M. McCallum Webster, Miss E. R. Bullard, Mr. J. Grant Roger and so on. A high percentage of Scottish vice-counties had their recorders present. Old friends were met, and new friends met on field meetings, were met again. It is particularly gratifying when botanists from the south of England travel to our Scottish meeting and so we were especially pleased to welcome Mrs. M. Briggs and Mr. J. Bevan who made the journey again, Lancashire and Yorkshire were represented by Dr. G. Halliday and the Rev. D. Kingston respectively. Dr. M. E. Bradshaw came from Durham and Mr. R. E. Groom from Newcastle. All too soon it was time for tea. Mr. R. Mackechnie addressed the hundred present and asked for help for the Inverness-shire Survey and Mr. B. W. Ribbons asked for active support for the *Wild Plant Protection Bill*. After tea we moved to the lecture theatre at the fine new education centre where Dr. L. Boyd introduced Mr. A. C. Crundwell of the University of Glasgow, who gave an instructive and lively account of the Faroes and their plant life.

The buffet supper was partaken by 65 in the beautiful surroundings of the Fellows' House before returning to the education centre where the remainder of the evening was spent viewing slides of C.S.S.F. field meetings this year introduced by Mr. R. Mackechnie. A fascinating description of the vegetation around Abisko, Sweden, was given by Dr. M. Bradshaw, part of the Lapland field meeting. Transparencies taken in Inverness-shire followed, shown by Miss M. McCallum Webster, Mr. D. Kingston, Mr. R. E. Groom and Miss E. R. T. Conacher, all of Easterness and Mr. A. Slack and Mr. J. Bevan of Westerness. Dr. M. Noble brought proceedings to a close with a vote of thanks to all those who had contributed to the success of the meeting and the party broke up, for another year.

E. R. T. CONACHER

MAPPING AT TOMATIN, EASTERNESS

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. S. Martin and I spent five days during the first week of July, 1973 mapping in the valley of the River Findhorn in tetrads, all but one, hitherto untouched by the Inverness-shire Survey. Except for one soaking day we were blessed with beautiful weather. We worked in seven tetrads but had on this occasion to keep to low altitudes to avoid disturbing young grouse.

On one day Mr. and Mrs. McBeath and Mr. Barnes were able to join us and we worked in a tetrad containing a low hillside and a delightful shingle island inhabited by roe deer and nesting mallard which were obviously unused to intruders. The island was colonised by a thicket of *Salix* hybrids in the centre but scattered on the bare shingle, conspicuous by their beautiful silvery wool were a number of shrubs up to 4 ft. high of a *Salix* hybrid still to be confirmed. There was some *Anthyllis vulneraria* here and on the bank at the water's edge I was surprised to find *Juncus balticus*. We continued to find this by the Findhorn all week.

While in Strathdearn, as the Findhorn valley is called, our recording was carried out in a little cultivated land at the riverside, among juniper and birch, in bogs and marshes and eventually in low moorland at about 1,600 ft. where the road ends. In quadrat 2871, however, we struck some basic ground which filled us with high hopes. There was *Ranunculus bulbosus*, *Polygonum viviparum*, *Koeleria cristata* and *Helictotrichon pubescens*.

On the wet day we worked in a marsh beside the Great North Road and then along the railway embankment. Here *Linaria repens* is conspicuous from the road but *Gentianella campestris* and the abundant and large specimens of *Botrychium lunaria* do not show from a distance. *Silene vulgaris* and *Trifolium campestre* are also there. The road verge was brown with the dead heads of *Poa subcaerulea* for some distance and *Hippuris vulgaris* was in the loch at the other side of the road.

To Mr. and Mrs. Martin who helped me so much and to the landowners who readily gave us permission to map across their land go my warmest thanks. In the four ten kilometre squares in which we worked we added 41 19 27 and 32 species to the master card.

We look forward to a field meeting in this delightful glen in 1974.

E. R. T. CONACHER

YUGOSLAVIA, APRIL 1973.

A serious account of this field meeting will appear in a later volume of *Watsonia*, but those of us who participated felt it would be unfortunate if members who do not attend field meetings were given the impression that we were a party of solemn intellectuals failing even to appreciate the sun of the Dalmatian and Montenegrin littoral. Sun? Our leader's preliminary notice to the party warned of the power of that sun which it said "is capable of skinning most shoulders and noses . . .". Nothing in the notice urged protection against gale-force winds, driving rain, thunder, hail, sleet and snow. Luckily most of the party, being British, took their waterproofs instinctively, but it was still a shock to arrive in Montenegro and find the hotel chambermaids dancing with glee at the film of snow on the Adriatic shore. The sight did not affect us in the same way.

Our first week was spent at Dubrovnik, and much of the time was used in exploring the limestone within walking distance of the city, the treks up the 1,500 ft. Mt. Srd being especially rewarding with forms of *Tulipa sylvestris* and *Fritillaria tenella* being particularly conspicuous among the rough limestone and juniper bushes. It was the proud boast of one member that the junipers could be separated, even in the dark, merely by walking through them. Those who have tried to force a passage through *Juniperus oxycedrus* scrub will appreciate the general state of knees when a small party descended the steep slopes away from the path, plunging down through the maquis covered limestone. There were many cries of agony from the bathrooms that night!

One day we visited Lokrum, the island in Dubrovnik bay which is a nature reserve and has a botanic garden chiefly given over to exotic shrubs. Luckily for us the sea that day was beautifully calm and all twenty-two of us, plus the hotel's enormous doorkeeper crossed the bay in a launch which would have held twelve in comfort. The sight of our irreplaceable chief identifier perched precariously on the roof, with legs dangling, caused many nervous moments, not least to himself! The island itself is largely maquis-covered and is crowned by a Napoleonic fort from which there are excellent views of the coast. Paths created about a hundred years ago are lined with *Cupressus sempervirens*, one with the fastigiate variety, var. *pyramidalis*, and one with var. *horizontalis* which makes a spreading tree. In the botanic gardens, largely the work of one man, Dr. Lav Rajevski who conducted us around, the native ground flora attracted as much if not more attention than the cultivated species, especially the sheets of the small tongue orchid, *Serapias lingua*.

A second excursion from the city took us up Mt. Orjen. Much of the journey was over rocky unmade roads, and the coach frequently came to a standstill as we met laden donkeys. One trio in particular carried haystacks as wide as our bus and caused great problems — and a bonus for the photographers. Once we had reached the snow-line our driver, who had steered the giant Mercedes safely round the tightest hair-pin bends on the stony road, halted with relief and disappeared rapidly into a nearby cottage, leaving us to stretch our shaky legs and admire the fragile flowers of *Crocus dalmaticus* pushing through the snow. The weather was in benevolent mood that day and we explored the scrubby oakwood and were able to munch our packed lunches with the inevitable daily gherkins, perched on boulders in the sunshine amongst the snow to the accompaniment of woodlark, chiffchaff and distant green woodpecker.

One plant we had all hoped to see while en route for Orjen was *Helleborus multifidus*, an endemic species, but alas it was not to be, and the pleasure of finding this unique hellebore was given to only three members of the group who one day decided to form a splinter party and explore inland.

It proved to be an unexpectedly adventuresome day long to be remembered. The journey to Trebinje was most spectacular as the train wound its way up into the mountains with superb views of peaks and valleys far below often through a rain-filled sky. En route, one member spotted clumps of the distinctive foliage of *Helleborus multifidus* amid scrubby oakwoods near the track and from then on all effort was aimed at getting back to this site on foot. Whilst the trio were eating their sandwiches in the Trebinje station waiting room (a thunderstorm was in progress by this time!) a youngish and rather florid policeman appeared and proceeded to patrol their table. He presented a somewhat comic, somewhat sinister figure and might well have come out of a Peter Ustinov play. Finally he pounced on one member and from the stream of Serbo Croat a word like "passport" was understood. Unfortunately only one member of the trio carried his passport. This was obviously highly suspicious to the policeman who set about interrogation in a far from friendly manner, getting worked up at his failure to make himself understood. After looking in the rucksacks he finally went away. The rain soon eased and the trio took the opportunity to escape, heading back to the mountains. After a lengthy walk the hellebore site was found and the handsome clumps of deeply segmented ruff-like leaves reverently admired. Then, whilst stooping down to admire a particularly fine plant, two men burst through the surrounding bushes, one carrying an enormous shot-gun which he brandished in no uncertain manner! This individual was the very picture of a brigand, swarthy and scowling, and the trio's hearts missed a beat, thinking they were about to be robbed — or worse! They were made to empty their rucksacks under the threat of the gun, but when it was seen that oranges and other remnants of food, plus plant specimens was all they contained the "brigand" angrily waved them away, shouting "Dubrovnik" several times. In retrospect it seems likely that these two men were gamekeepers or wardens who suspected the trio of poaching.

With a sigh of relief the splinter group moved on with alacrity and made several other exciting finds including the black-purple spathes of *Arum nigrum* and *Vicia melanops*, but the day of adventure was not yet over. Boarding the Dubrovnik bound train from a wayside halt, the trio were met by a reception committee of two large policemen who once again demanded passports and looked at every item in the rucksacks. It was a highly unpleasant experience with nasty visions of dank stone jails and third degree treatment, and this may well have been the case had all three members been without passports. The main spokesman, even in Serbo Croat made it plain that passports must be carried at all times in Yugoslavia. He was right of course, but one is lulled into a sense of false security in the tourist resorts. Finally the trio were given their freedom and were most grateful to reach the haven of touristy Dubrovnik. Later, the Jugotours representative made the comment that the police were edgy because Herr Willie Brandt was visiting the country, which seemed an unlikely excuse at the time until one stopped to think what sort of a spectacle a field botanist must present in a country without a tradition of itinerant field naturalists tramping all over the place. Picture the scene: a blowy wet day and three bodies clad in anoraks and heavy boots, with bulging rucksacks, peering into every bush and every now and then making stooping sorties into the nearby woods. A suspicious sight indeed!

Fortunately, no similar adventures were experienced by the other members of the party!

The second week of our visit provided the widest variety of experiences. Perhaps we were getting to know each other better and were consequently more relaxed, or perhaps the shock of nearly losing half the party brought us together. It happened on the ferry

crossing on the Bay of Kotor. The courier had plainly said it would be half-an-hour before the ferry boat left and so many took the opportunity to visit a nearby café only to see, barely ten minutes later, the ferry slipping quietly away from the shore complete with coach and driver, but only half its complement of botanists! To those of us who were wise enough to remain on the coach the sight of the small forlorn-looking group receding into the distance provoked alas, not alarm but amusement, though in our defence it must be said that we knew the courier was with them so that their abandonment was not complete, and before long they rejoined us and we were able to continue together. After that however, everyone remained within sprinting distance of the coach at every stop.

At Budva the flora proved far more diverse, as would be expected by the more complicated nature of the area's geology. One happy day was spent on Jaz beach and marshes, where the botanical purpose of the party was led somewhat astray by the presence of flocks of migrating birds, spotted and collared flycatchers, whinchats, crag martins, alpine swifts, common and black eared wheatears and many woodchat shrikes, all feeding busily in a field golden with *Ranunculus sardous*, while an errant bat caused such excitement that one member forgot he was standing by the water's edge until a wave broke over his well shod feet. Shortly afterwards the party subsided onto the rocks to enjoy a brief patch of sunshine and the gentle murmur of lapping waves. The peace was broken only by the sharp sound of wet socks being hopefully slapped against the warm limestone.

Other forms of wildlife noted during the week included tortoises on the hillsides, slow-worms beneath the rocks, and green toads which trilled throughout the evenings in the ponds by the hotel, and provoked several pleasant excursions to watch their white throats expand like bubble-gum as they chorused.

Only when away from the coast did our strange botanical ways cause any interest. At Cijevna Gorge near Titograd, we collected a small audience who stood silently beneath their dripping umbrellas and gazed at us. As we had the advantage of a local guide, Dr. Vucic Pulevic from Titograd's Botanic Institute, we asked for his comments. His reply was "They are surprised to see people behaving like sheep". Very salutary!

For both our excursions from Budva our party leader, whose command of Serbo Croat ran to ten words and the ability to tell the time, acted as courier. Happily the driver (whose total "English" vocabulary seemed to be "O.K.") proved most amenable, and when someone spotted another hellebore, a shout of "Stoj"! (taken verbatim from the emergency button in the hotel lift) produced the right result and we were able to tumble out and inspect our find, almost certainly *H. cyclophyllus*. During this stop three of the keenest botanists were somewhat embarrassed to be presented with branches of the lovely laburnum-like Balkan endemic *Petteria ramentacea* by a local lad. They returned to the coach to exclamations of "Vandals!", and the somewhat muffled strains of "Here Come the Brides" to be snapped from all angles. The *Petteria* was carried back to Budva and graced our enormous dining table for the rest of our stay.

During the fortnight, over six-hundred plants were seen and identified, and everyone gained a wider knowledge of the local flora, and by frequent contact with plants occurring only rarely in Britain, of our own flora too. Add to this the worthwhile contacts made with local botanists and our own enjoyment, it can be safely said that "a good time was had by all".

GILLIAN AND KENNETH BECKETT

NEW MEMBERS

Apart from two minor setbacks — one in 1959 and again ten years later in 1969 — the membership of the society rose steadily if somewhat slowly over the years from 350 in 1942 to 1888 by the end of 1972. On 1st October 1973 the total membership reached 2000 for the first time in its history and council unanimously decided that the occasion should be marked by the presentation of a year's subscription to the 2000th member. This is Mrs. L. Johns of Stourbridge, Worcestershire, whom we welcome most heartily to our membership.

(1st April to 31st October, 1973)

ORDINARY MEMBERS:—

- Mrs. O. Ainley**, 278, Hempstead Road, WATFORD, Herts., WD1 3LY.
Mrs. J. A. Badmin, 54, Ashley Close, Halfway, Minster, SHEPPEY, Kent, ME12 3ED.
R. C. Baker, Avenue Cottage, Ashprington, TOTNES, Devon, TQ9.
Mrs. R. D. Bate, Lower Trefaldu, DINGESTOW, Monmouth, NP5 4BQ.
M. E. Braithwaite, Haughton Castle, HEXHAM, Northumberland, NE46 4AY.
C. J. Bruxner, Somerton, Birds Hill Rise, Oxshott, LEATHERHEAD, Surrey.
T. R. Caddel, "Cherry Tree", BLYTHBURGH, Suffolk, IP19 9LL.
J. P. Cannan, 167, Borden Lane, SITTINGBOURNE, Kent.
Major P. R. Carpenter, Caer Llan Field Studies Centre, LYDART, Monmouth.
Dr. J. H. Chapman, 11, North Drive, RUISLIP, Middlesex, HA4 8HA.
Miss J. M. P. Conroy, Dept. of French, University College, GALWAY, Irish Republic.
T. A. Craven, Mill Cottage, Cavendish, SUDBURY, Suffolk.
Dr. A. J. Davy, School of Biological Sciences, University of East Anglia, NORWICH, NOR 88C.
Miss P. M. R. Diamond, "Linkways", 135, Newcourt Road, Topsham, EXETER, Devon.
S. R. Edwards, The Herbarium, The Manchester Museum, The University, MANCHESTER, M13 9PL.
Miss J. R. Fildes, 63, Goldsmith Avenue, SOUTHSEA, PO4 8DX.
M. Fishter, 12, Belgrave Terrace, Camden Road, BATH, Somerset.
Dr. P. M. Ford, Torran, West Lights, TAYPORT, Fife.
Mrs. M. H. Fulton, Ballyspallen, BALLYKELLY, Co. Londonderry, N. Ireland.
S. Furlong, Zoology Dept., University College, Belfield, Stillorgan Road, DUBLIN 4, Eire.
Mrs. K. Garnett-Orme, 3, Russell Court, Cleveland Row, St. James's, LONDON, SW1.
Dr. G. M. George, 3, Darlow Drive, Biddenham, BEDFORD.
Dr. J. C. Gibson, Chippenham House, MONMOUTH.
W. J. Godbey, 12, Bates House, Popple Way, STEVENAGE, Herts.
Mrs. E. D. Goode, 93, Hempstead Road, KINGS LANGLEY, Herts., WD4 8BS.
F. Goodridge, 3, Pentney Road, LONDON, SW19 4JE.
A. Grossert, Head Forester, River House, Mainstone, ROMSEY, Hants., SO5 0BA.
Miss A. L. Hale, Brunton House, Embleton, ALNWICK, Northumberland, NE66 3HQ.
G. Hall, 35, Derby Road, Whitefield, MANCHESTER, M25 5TW.
Mrs. J. Hammond, 133, Upton Road, SLOUGH, Bucks, SL1 2AE.
D. R. Hayes, Factors House, Pitvoulish, AVIEMORE, Inverness-shire.
Mrs. E. M. Hedges, Kilmurry, Thomastown, Co. KILKENNY, Irish Republic.
K. Hill, 93, Elmhurst Drive, HORNCHURCH, Essex, RM11 1NZ.
Mrs. L. Johns, 5 Dingle Road, Pedmore, STOURBRIDGE, Worcs., DY9 0RS.
H. Jones, 70, Cecil Street, Roath, CARDIFF, CF2 1NW.
Dr. J. G. D. Lamb, Kinsealy Research Centre, Malahide Road, DUBLIN 5, Irish Republic.
W. D. Lance, 37, Rivehall Avenue, Welton, LINCOLN, LN2 3LH.
Dr. H. A. Lang, Westwood, NEWTON STEWART, Wigtownshire.
D. C. D. Langley, 2/117 Heathfield Road, Handsworth, BIRMINGHAM 19.
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